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**Washburn, H. V.**



The Farmers' Relation to Science.

It is often the agricultural chemist or teacher of agricultural science is asked by a farmer to state just what he should do with land or animals, in order that profitable results may follow. These requests are often not so much a call for information as they are an expressed desire to obtain a rule, recipe, or formula that shall be an infallible guide to all future operations. A trustee of an agricultural college once said to the professor of agriculture: "What we wish to do is to tell us just what we must put on our farms in order that we may get big crops," meaning that there must be some way, known or unknown, by which all soils could be made productive to the desired extent.

Many farmers seem to be living in the expectation that a series of facts are to be discovered, and a code of rules formulated that will constitute their guide book, which will relieve them of the inconvenience of facing difficult and inconceivable problems. To be sure, some pretend to distrust science, and say that the farmer must depend on himself alone; but such distrust arises in many cases from the fact that science has not helped them out of all the hard places, so that they still have difficulties.

This stationary condition of expectancy, waiting for the scientist to dig out the summum-bonum of agricultural knowledge, which can be used as the housewife uses a recipe for bread making, has been of harm to the progress of agriculture. It does not seem probable that agricultural practice will admit of very many universally best methods. At least, such is not the case now, and farmers need to be more fully impressed with the fact. The main operations of the farm can only by chance allow the profitable use of the same details of practice in A's case that would be wise in B's, neither is it the business of science to provide a creed of farm practice that shall contain anything beyond general underlying principles. The determination of almost all the rules of practice best adapted to a farmer's particular circumstances rests with the farmer himself. We would, if possible, place the matter in such a light as to more sharply define the relation which the farmer's own observation and knowledge, on the one hand, and the generalizations of science on the other, bear to the sphere of individual effort.

Science teaches principles only. The rule for action is the outcome of the application of principles to the conditions of practice. Chemistry teaches that lime transforms and decomposes, and what its action is under particular circumstances, but it is left with each individual to decide when and where to apply lime in his farm practice. Chemistry teaches that superphosphates furnish plant food, but this is only showing that they can be used when needed. Not every farm may respond profitably to their use. Chemical analysis decides as to the relative composition and value of cottage-seed meal, but each dairyman is left to economically combine it with his other cattle foods, although he may have certain established principles to aid him in producing such combinations.

In every agricultural problem there is the science side and the farmer side, the latter being often the more difficult. The farmer stands between principles on the one hand, and the conditions of his farming on the other, and of the proper application of principles to conditions comes the correct practice. Other things being equal, then, the farmer who has the best knowledge of principles has the best practice; in other words, the educated farmer may be the best farmer. It would be convenient if agricultural practice could be so simplified as to render unnecessary any special study or preparation on the part of the tillers of the soil. We should then be sure of maximum good results, even from the ignorant farmer, and to boast of the good sense and sterling qualities of their class, and they seem to think that because of these things they deserve success. But no matter how much we may admire the citizen and the man, if he does not possess a certain kind of knowledge especially adapted to his wants, he will rarely pay the penalty for such deficiency. Men labor science for its mistakes and its inability to do certain things, but they must remember that neither now nor at any other time can science stand in the place which the farmer fails to occupy; nor can it secure the best results except through the medium of a mind fitted to comprehend its teachings. This, then, is equivalent to saying that farming is not an occupation especially for the unlettered and those of low capacity; and, moreover, that there are to-day tillers of the soil who are but bunglers, and for whom science has few benefits. Fertilizer formulas, or any formulas designed for the use of those who cannot find out their own needs, are but sorry makeshifts, and are only the outcome of necessity, a necessity based on ignorance. The farmer must discover and decide some things for himself, or, in case of a failure to this, pay a costly penalty.—Prof. W. H. Jordan.

Insistence.

The secret of success in life is not opportunity so much as importunity. Few are the cases where the gates have opened on golden hinges unfolding to the gaze of a truly earnest soul such fields as he most desired to enter upon, such pursuits as he longed, with a fever strong as the love of life itself, to follow. Young man, or young woman, whatever your aim in life may be, never depend on what "opportunity" is to do for you; nor wait Micawber-like for "something to turn up." That must be an obscure neighborhood indeed wherein some opening could not be found trading out to the great highways of knowledge and enjoyment, to the royal paths of learning and of labor.

The lessons you are so willing to receive can, perhaps, be imparted by one in your immediate vicinity, the particular branch of art you are interested in can be made a medium of exchange for the products of another's skill; books may be converted into paintings or music, instruction in the principles of foreign language be tendered as ready coinage for the acquisition of some other; the very handiwork which seems common, vague and almost vulgar to your overwrought imagination can be disposed of at advantage in some near market town and a few long coveted articles or equipments come back to you in return.

When you are tempted to sit down idly and dream of far off opportunities, go to work, instead, upon what is nearest at hand, and by opportune measures and constant importuning of fate carve out a career which shall bear the stamp

Consumption.

The influence of soils upon health is a subject of no ordinary interest. A minute investigation clearly shows that consumption usually prevails on clayey and other soils that retain a large amount of moisture. Among other means of preventing the birth and growth of this unrelenting malady is living on dry or well-drained soils. The dwellings in which persons inclined to this disease live should be raised much above the level of the adjacent lands, and be exposed as much as possible to the vital forces of the sunny rays. Drainage of wet and retentive soils not only produces larger and earlier crops, but removes the causes of many severe diseases, notably consumption. Raising dwellings high above the adjacent land enables us to well ventilate the cellars, remove the causes of decomposition, or impurities, check the generating of injurious gases that would ultimately enter the rooms above, and slowly and steadily create disease. And so many wise physicians recommend that persons inclined to this malady should avoid the injurious results of exposure to moist and chilly air, in cold, damp, and sudden changes of temperature. They strongly urge that such persons should reside during moist and chilly months in climates whose changes are less than in the Northern States. What such patients need is a uniformly dry and moderate temperature, and they should exercise as much as possible in the house. It is not the temperature itself that harms consumptives, but the changes of temperature. The temperature that is usually pleasant and invigorating to members of the human family is 66 degrees. It abstracts heat from the human family at about the rate in which it is generated in the human body and is congenial and agreeable. It does not exhaust the vital powers nor produce any unpleasant feelings. The consumptive not only needs a congenial temperature, but exercise enough to promote good digestion. Visiting a climate that is warmer than one's own has only this advantage that you often visit the outer air at regular periods of time.

Have food at stated hours and take time for properly masticating it. Have a liberal supply of easily digested nourishing food as you can easily dissolve, absorb and convert to blood. Keep the blood in active circulation. Avoid late hours and chills and damp air. Secure all the sleep you can. Do not limit yourselves to any definite number of hours, but sleep as long as your condition needs. Protect your body with woolen underclothing and inhale all the air you can in sunny days and expose your skin to the influence of the sunny rays. Recovery from this exhausting malady depends more on this or a similar course of treatment than on medicine. But if drugs are absolutely needed take them in small quantities at regular periods of time. Do not neglect to rub the skin well with a flesh brush or coarse towel every day. Content and cheerfulness do much toward inducing the same result.—Patriotic Farmer.

The Adventures of a Bank Note.

A £25 Bank of England note has just found its way back to its original source in a manner which indicates the efficient management both of the bank and of the post-office. It was lost as far back as 1829, having been inclosed in a letter. The postal authorities made the usual investigations, but, as nothing was heard of it the bank authorities, after some years, made good the loss to the post-office in the belief that the note must have found its way back, but through some carelessness the fact had been overlooked. It was, however, found in circulation only the other day. It has been traced to a woman in humble circumstances, who found it accidentally among the papers of her grandfather, who acted as guard to one of the old mail coaches. There is no evidence whatever that he stole the note. The loss was probably the result of the merest accident.—London Globe.

It is stated that 100,000 persons are annually killed in England from causes directly resulting from industrial occupations.

Persons should not wait until health is undermined, constitutions impaired and hold on life made less by some disease of the liver, lungs, heart, stomach, nerves, kidneys, throat or blood before they call upon Dr. V. Clarence Price, who has for years made these ailments his exclusive study, and who not only has the ability, but is prepared to remove such complaints, and restore to health the sickly and debilitated. We know enough of Dr. Price to feel safe in recommending him as a candid, honorable and educated physician, able in every way to successfully handle any case that he will undertake. Those who devote their whole energies to one subject are more likely to excel than those who attend to variety. It is this exclusive attention to these diseases only that makes Dr. Price so successful. Dr. Price can be consulted upon all diseases of a chronic nature on his next visit to Janesville, Myers house, on Saturday, the 22d of April.

"Tis no use! We are now in the worst crisis of our history!" said an enthusiastic young reformer, at the family supper-table. "Subsidy and Perfidy openly walk hand in hand!" "Mebbe they be a-going to get married, Tommy," put in the venerable grandmother, "and that makes things not as bad as they look to you. I remember when I was a girl, and your grandfather came a courting—" "O! bother a grandmother, I say!" exclaimed Mr. Reform Thomas, impatiently, upsetting his empty tea-cup with such a jangle as to send the dear old lady off on a dissertation about the best cements for mending broken "chancey."

When Disraeli first came forward at Wycombe as a parliamentary candidate, he was opposed by a territorial magnate. Of course the friends of the latter made much of the connection of the magnate with the county, etc., at the hustings. "On what do you stand?" shouted a man in the crowd to Disraeli. "I stand," he replied, "on what you never will—on my head."

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7 Pr







